

Irish Wolfhound Association of New England

Specialty Show, 2013

Sweepstakes Judge's Critique

I was so pleased and honored to be asked to judge the IWANE Sweepstakes this year. We seldom get to attend this regional specialty and it has been many years since I have done so. The hospitality was wonderful, the gifts imaginative and so useful! The company, hounds and humans were all most gracious.

I hope what I was looking for in growing puppies was obvious to the ringside. There were many lovely pups from which to pick those that I thought showed the promise of lovely hounds they should become. I was pleased to find not just lovely shapes but lovely temperaments as well. It was a fund day and great fun to then be able to sit and visit while watching to see my colleague sort through the regular classes. I offer the following critique of my placements as just a reminder of what I saw and felt on that day. Thanks you again for having me.

Donna

Puppy Dog 6-9 months:

1. Antostal Glendon of Glaslaenn, owned by Gwendalee M. Centeno & E. Culp.

This is a lovely young dog, balanced fore and aft, with an adequate fill in front, excellent bone, a strong neck bleeding into a strong back with the requisite arch over the loin. He has a nice head with parallel planes and well-rosed ears. He shows depth of brisket and good spring of rib. His hindquarters are strong, with breadth across the pelvis and nice bend to the stifle. He moved cleanly with good drive and no exaggerated movement. **Best of Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes.**

2. Gladstone's Thunder Road, owned by Scott Maruska, Linda Maruska & Roger Johnson.

This boy pushed the first place male hard, but did not quite have as good a front assembly and not the leg of the first place. He has a lovely head and expression, a rosed ear and a nice long neck. He has good spring of rib, an nice tuck-up and strong stifle and 2nd thigh. He moved around the ring with a nice balanced gait.

3. Starkeeper Gibson of Glaslaenn, owned by Elissa Culp.

I see this is a litter brother to my #1 pick. This boy has a nice head, a kind expression, and a nicely rosed ear. He has decent fill in front, but is a bit short in the upper arm. He is balanced, well ribbed back to strong hindquarters and a lovely low hock. He moved very well.

4. Sylverwolf Grady Glaslaenn, owned by Sylvia Tamm.

Yet another littermate to my first placed hound, this dog had great, flat bone, a nicer head than the #3 dog, and a nice long strong neck. He is too long in the loin, making for a weaker topline at this time, and taking him out of balance. He has nice curve to the stifle and moved with drive and good reach.

Puppy Dog 9-12 months:

1. Aisling Oengus, owned by Cheryl & Gordon Lang.

Alone in his class, this young hound is in beautiful coat and has an alert expression and much animation. He has a nice ear and a strong neck that flows nicely into his topline. He has an upright forearm, which on the move is evident in restricted movement. He has good spring of rib but a somewhat flat back. His hindquarters are in balance with his forequarters and he moved with enthusiasm.

Puppy Bitches 6-9 months:

1. Gladstone's Irish Mist, owned by Betty & Roger Johnson & Christine Johnson.

This is a nicely balanced girl with a lovely head, a nice ear and nice flowing curves. She has adequate fill in front, a somewhat short upper arm, good bone, is nicely ribbed. She has a strong topline and well muscled strong stifle. She moved true and has lovely side movement.

2. O'Lugh's Perrier Jouet, owned by Andrea & Michael Dormandy.

This little girl wants to crouch, so it exaggerates a topline that slopes downward. She has a nice front and good bone on nice strong round feet. She has a lovely head with beautiful ear, a long neck and good spring of rib. To my taste, she is a bit long in the loin, with her ribbing not supporting the length. She has a lovely curve of stifle and nice low hock. She floated around the ring – very lovely.

3. Mythic Texas Pearl, owned by Anne Linden & Raven-Wolf Axelrad.

This is a nicely balanced puppy. She has a pleasing head, a soft eye, good bone, and a better front assembly than she wants to show you, as she shifts back. She has good spring of rib, a strong back into lovely stifles.

4. Starkeeper Laislinn on the Edge of Glory, owned by Lani Hoph-King & Jocelyne Gagne.

This is a big girl with a pleasing head, a dark eye and nice strong neck. She is straight in front due to an upright upper arm and she does not have a strong a topline due to too long a loin. She has strongly muscled hindquarters. She moved true coming and going.

Puppy Bitches 9-12 months:

1. Dun Myrica Nova of Eagle, owned by Sam Houston McDonald & Joe & Kathy Roland.

What a lovely dark bitch. She absolutely commands you to acknowledge that she is a princess! She oozes type, from her lovely head and expression, to the soft flowing curves of her body. Specifically, she has a dark eye, a beautiful rosed ear, a long neck blending into lovely front, good strong bone, nice tight feet. Her topline is strong, with a lovely arch over the loin, down to nicely curved stifles to a low hock. She had good spring of rib and moved with consummate grace.

2. Aisling Maybelline, owned by Cheryl & Gordon Lang.

This little bitch has a pleasing head and expression. Her ears are nicely rosed. She is somewhat straight in the front but has good bone. She has good spring of rib, a level topline and hindquarters that balance her front. She moved true coming and going and kept her balance around the ring.

Puppy Bitches 15-18 months:

1. O'Lugh's Amarula, owned by Andrea & Michael Dormandy & Doug Marx & Amy Benjamin.

This is a young bitch of great strength and substance. She has a lovely head, nice dark eye, a lovely rosed ear. Her very strong neck flows into her nicely angulated forequarters. She has good bone, good depth and width to the brisket, a strong topline and is well ribbed back to strong hindquarters. She does fall off a bit in the pelvis, but this did not keep her from powering around the ring with great drive. I gave her **Best in Sweepstakes**.

2. Laislinn Perfect Four O Stella, owned by Lani Hoph-King & Danny King.

Oh my, did this girl float around the ring. This is a big girl with a nice head and lovely dark eye, ears not her fortune but a lovely long strong neck into nice forequarters. She has good spring of rib and depth of brisket. She is long in the loin, wit ribbing not going back to support the long back. She has nicely bent stifles. She was not as true on the down and back, doing what a mentor once taught me was "knitting and purling".